

Applic. No. 09/922,464

Amdt. dated January 29, 2004

Reply to Office action of October 29, 2003

Claim Amendments

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently-amended). A device for controlling deposits on surfaces, comprising:

at least one body having a surface on which deposits occur and influence reflection properties of said surface to electromagnetic radiation;

at least one transmitter for transmitting electromagnetic radiation to said at least one body, said at least one transmitter being connected to said at least one body; and

at least one detector for detecting the a presence of the deposits at said surface, said at least one detector being connected to said at least one body and measuring electromagnetic radiation received from said at least one transmitter after reflection at said surface, said at least one detector generating signals ~~upon exceeding a predetermined limiting value~~ based upon the presence of deposits detected at said surface; and

Applic. No. 09/922,464

Amdt. dated January 29, 2004

Reply to Office action of October 29, 2003

at least one ~~deposit control device~~ ion exchanger connected to said detector for controlling the deposits at said surface, said at least one ~~deposit control device~~ ion exchanger controlling the deposits in dependence on the signals generated by said at least one detector.

Claim 2 (original). The device according to claim 1, wherein said at least one transmitter introduces the electromagnetic radiation into said at least one body and the electromagnetic radiation reaches said at least one detector after internal reflection at said surface.

Claim 3 (original). The device according to claim 2, wherein the electromagnetic radiation reaches said at least one detector after multiple internal reflections in said at least one body.

Claim 4 (original). The device according to claim 1, wherein said at least one transmitter emits electromagnetic radiation at a predetermined wavelength dependent on a degree of change in electromagnetic radiation reflection properties by the deposits on said surface.

Claim 5 (original). The device according to claim 4, wherein said predetermined wavelength is selected to correspond to a

Applic. No. 09/922,464
Amdt. dated January 29, 2004
Reply to Office action of October 29, 2003

maximum degree of change in electromagnetic radiation
reflection properties by the deposits on said surface.

Claim 6 (original). The device according to claim 1, wherein
said at least one detector is two detectors disposed with
respect to said at least one transmitter to create paths of
the electromagnetic radiation from said at least one
transmitter to said two detectors having different lengths
inside said at least one body.

Claim 7 (original). The device according to claim 1, wherein
said at least one transmitter is two transmitters disposed
with respect to said at least one detector to create paths of
the electromagnetic radiation from said two transmitters to
said at least one detector having different lengths inside
said at least one body.

Claim 8 (original). The device according to claim 1, wherein
said at least one body has a point at which the
electromagnetic radiation is introduced at said at least one
body and another point at which the electromagnetic radiation
reaches said at least one detector, and said point and said
another point are adjacent to one another.

Claim 9 (original). The device according to claim 8, wherein:

Applic. No. 09/922,464

Amdt. dated January 29, 2004

Reply to Office action of October 29, 2003.

said at least one body has a silvered surface for reflecting the electromagnetic radiation and an inside; and

said silvered surface directed toward said inside of said at least one body and substantially reflects the electromagnetic radiation for guiding the electromagnetic radiation to said at least one detector.

Claim 10 (previously-presented): The device according to claim 7, wherein:

said at least one body is a light-guiding body; and

the electromagnetic radiation propagates inside said light-guiding body.

Claim 11 (cancelled).

Claim 12 (original). The device according to claim 1, wherein said at least one body is made of a material having a refractive index greater than a refractive index of a medium surrounding said at least one body.

Applic. No. 09/922,464

Amdt. dated January 29, 2004

Reply to Office action of October 29, 2003

Claim 13 (original). The device according to claim 12,
wherein said medium is water.

Claim 14 (original). The device according to claim 12,
wherein said material is glass.

Claim 15 (original). The device according to claim 1,
including:

a connecting piece; and

a sensor part having said at least one body and being
detachably connected to said connecting piece.

Claim 16 (cancelled).

Claim 17 (original). The device according to claim 1, wherein
said at least one transmitter introduces the electromagnetic
radiation into said at least one body at an angle maximizing a
number of internal reflections of the electromagnetic
radiation at said surface.

Claim 18 (original). The device according to claim 1,
wherein:

Applic. No. 09/922,464

Amdt. dated January 29, 2004

Reply to Office action of October 29, 2003

said at least one body has a central axis; and

said at least one transmitter introduces the electromagnetic radiation into said at least one body in a beam inclined at an angle relative to said central axis.

Claim 19 (original). The device according to claim 18, wherein said beam has a minimum amount of divergence.

Claim 20 (original). The device according to claim 1, wherein said surface of said at least one body is disposed in a liquid-conveying machine.

Claim 21 (original). The device according to claim 1, wherein said surface of said at least one body is disposed in a washing machine.

Claim 22 (original). The device according to claim 1, wherein said surface of said at least one body is disposed in a dishwasher.

Claim 23 (currently-amended). A method for controlling deposits on surfaces, which comprises:

Applic. No. 09/922,464

Amdt. dated January 29, 2004

Reply to Office action of October 29, 2003

transmitting electromagnetic radiation from at least one
transmitter;

reflecting the electromagnetic radiation at a surface of a
body on which exist deposits influencing reflection properties
for the electromagnetic radiation; and

detecting the reflected electromagnetic radiation with at
least one detector;

generating signals with the detector ~~upon exceeding a~~
~~predetermined limiting value~~ based upon the deposits at the
surface of the body; and

controlling the deposits at the surface with ~~a deposit control~~
~~device~~ an ion exchanger in dependence on receipt of the
signals generated by the at least one detector.

Claim 24 (original). The method according to claim 23, which
further comprises:

introducing the electromagnetic radiation into the body; and

detecting the electromagnetic radiation after internal
reflection on the surface of the body.

Applic. No. 09/922,464
Amdt. dated January 29, 2004
Reply to Office action of October 29, 2003

Claim 25 (original). The method according to claim 23, which further comprises performing the transmitting, reflecting, and detecting steps in a liquid-conveying machine.

Claim 26 (original). The method according to claim 23, which further comprises performing the transmitting, reflecting, and detecting steps in a washing machine.

Claim 27 (original). The method according to claim 23, which further comprises performing the transmitting, reflecting, and detecting steps in a dishwasher.

Claim 28 (currently-amended): The device according to claim 1, ~~wherein said deposit control device is an~~ further comprising a control unit receiving the signals generated by said detector, said control unit controlling said ion exchanger.

Claim 29 (previously-presented): The device according to claim 1, wherein said deposit control device visually indicates that excessively thick deposits have occurred.

Applic. No. 09/922,464

Amdt. dated January 29, 2004

Reply to Office action of October 29, 2003

Claim 30 (previously-presented): The device according to claim 1, wherein said deposit control device acoustically indicates that excessively thick deposits have occurred.